



**CARDD**  
**MEPA ROUTING MEMO**

To: Mark Bostrom  
Through: Autumn Coleman  
From: Demi Blythe

Re: MEPA Adoption for City of White Sulphur Springs Water Main Replacement Project

Project Sponsor: City of White Sulphur Springs

Name of Project: Water Main Replacement

Agreement No: WRF-XXXXX

Memo:

DNRC can issue an Adoption Notice for Montana Department of Environmental Quality's Categorical Exclusion of the City of White Sulphur Springs Water Main Replacement Project (attached). **SIGNATURE REQUIRED**

<sup>DS</sup>/s/DEB\_ MEPA/NEPA Coordinator Review

<sup>DS</sup>  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bureau Chief Review

<sup>DS</sup>  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Division Administrator Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Post for \_30\_ Days on DNRC's Environmental Docs page.

\_\_\_\_\_  
File

# NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION



GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR

1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

## STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074  
FAX: (406) 444-2684PO BOX 201601  
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

### DECISION NOTICE ADOPTION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Water Main Replacement  
May 2022  
City of White Sulphur Springs  
46.5463, -110.9035  
Meagher County

Existing Environmental Review Document: Attached Below

#### Type and Purpose of Action

The City of White Sulphur Springs is located in central Montana and is the County Seat of Meagher County at latitude 46.5463° longitude -110.9035°. The water system consists of a filtered surface water source, two wells, 450,000-gallon storage tank and distribution system. The water usage is metered, and the City uses the Black Mountain Utility Billing Software. The surface water supply source is the South Fork of Willow Creek, located southeast of the City and about five miles from the city center. The groundwater supply sources are two wells located close together on the east edge of the city. The water storage reservoir is located about two miles east of the City.

The City's initial water system was constructed in the late 1800's and early 1900's using mainly wood stave pipe. The City recently replaced its 450,000-gallon water reservoir that was constructed in 1946 with a new concrete pre-stressed tank in 2012. In 1946, the main transmission line located on Main Street was upgraded to welded steel pipe. All but 1350 feet of that pipe has been replaced in the last five years. The last section of 1946 vintage pipe has broken twice in the last two years and in each case, threatened the town with a water outage.

A slow sand filter was constructed at the point of diversion on the South Fork of Willow Creek. In 2004 the filter was replaced by a new facility located adjacent to the existing water storage reservoir. In 2013 a tornado destroyed this structure and the City rebuilt it. The distribution system consists of main lines varying in size from 12 inches to one inch.

The break in the Main Line in 2007 was nothing less than catastrophic. The broken main undermined the street severely and flooded three houses. Residents were forced to take shelter at local motels. The school, government offices and cafes were forced to close for two days. A boil order was issued for eight days and the City was forced to use trucked in water for the drinking water supply. Four houses had major damage and another five additional homes had minor flooding damage. Businesses, schools, cafes, and the Senior Center were closed for two days and most eating establishments stayed closed for a total of eight days. A State of Emergency was declared by the Mayor. It is this last section of water main we are seeking to replace.

#### Explanation of the decision(s) that must be made regarding the proposed action (i.e. approve grant or loan and provide funding):

DNRC will approve the loan to provide funding for the water main replacement for the City of White Sulphur Springs.

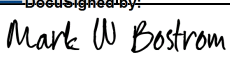
**Criteria for Adopting Existing Environmental Review**

- ☒ The existing environmental review covers an action paralleling or closely related to the proposed action.
- ☒ The information in the existing environmental review is accurate and clearly presented.
- ☒ The information in the existing environmental review is applicable to the action being considered.
- ☒ All appropriate Agencies were consulted during preparation of the existing environmental review.
- ☒ Alternatives to the proposed action evaluated as part of the existing environmental review effort.
- ☒ The impacts of the proposed action been accurately identified as part of the existing environmental review.
- ☒ The existing environmental review identifies any significant impacts as a result of the proposed action and those identified will they be mitigated below the level of significance.

**Adopt**

The existing environmental review can be considered sufficient to satisfy DNRC's MEPA review responsibilities. No further analysis needed.

<b>Existing Analysis Prepared By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> Demitra Blythe	<b>Date:</b> 8/3/2021
	<b>Title:</b> CARD Division MEPA/NEPA Coordinator	
	<b>Email:</b> Demitra.Blythe@mt.gov	

<b>Approved By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> Mark Bostrom
	<b>Title:</b> CARD Division Administrator
<b>Signature:</b>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">  </div> <b>Date:</b> 8/19/2021

DocuSigned by:  
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## CHAPTER III – ATTACHMENT D

## DOCUMENTATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION CHECKLIST

Project Name / Brief Description: White Sulphur Springs – Phase 3 Water Main Replacement Project. Replace ~1,100 feet of water main along 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE and Lincoln Street.

Project Number: EQ No.

Date: March 29, 2021

Preparer: Robert Ashton, Drinking Water SRF Program

The Department action under Title 75, chapter 5, part 11 and or chapter 6, part 1 or 2, MCA, is excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) if the application for department review is for any of the following projects:

**(a) Projects relating to existing infrastructure systems such as sewer systems, drinking water supply systems, and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems that involve:**

*[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", an EA or EIS must be completed. If any answer is yes, skip to (b).]*

Yes 1. minor upgrading;

No 2. minor expansion of system capacity;

Yes 3. rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components;

No 4. construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities; or

No 5. projects in unsewered communities involving the replacement of existing on-site systems, provided that the new on-site systems do not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharges or in loadings of pollutants from existing sources, and do not relocate existing discharges.

**(b) A categorical exclusion may NOT be granted for a department action if:**

*[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", skip to (c). If any answer is yes, an EA or EIS must be completed.]*

No 6. the action would authorize facilities that will provide a new discharge or relocate an existing discharge to ground or surface waters;

No 7. the action would result in an increase above permit levels established for the facility under the Montana pollutant discharge elimination system or Montana ground water pollution control system for either volume of discharge or loading rate of pollutants to receiving waters;

No 8. the action would authorize facilities that will provide capacity to serve a population at least 30% greater than the existing population;

No 9. the action is not supported by the state, or other regional growth plan or strategy;

No 10. the action directly or indirectly involves or relates to upgrading or extending infrastructure systems primarily for the purposes of future development;

No 11. the department has received information indicating that public controversy exists over the project's potential effects on the quality of the human environment;

No 12. the department determines that the proposed project that is the subject of the state action shows some potential for causing a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, based on ARM 17.4.608, or might possibly affect:

- (i) sensitive environmental or cultural resource areas; or
- (ii) endangered or threatened species and their critical habitats.

**(c) If the proposed project meets the conditions above in determining use of a CATEX, the reviewer will then complete items 13 - 17 as follows:**

*[Once all steps 1- 17 are complete, reviewer shall sign and date at bottom. If revocation becomes necessary, reviewer shall initiate an EA or EIS as appropriate.]*

X 13. Project meets the above Categorical Exclusion criteria.

X 14. DEQ determination of Categorical Exclusion.

       15. DEQ distributes the Notice of Determination.

       16. Notice of Publication and cover letter (containing revocation language below) is delivered to recipient.

       17. Notice of Publication published in local newspaper by recipient and evidence of publication provided to reviewer.

**(d) The department may revoke a categorical exclusion if:**

*[Only complete the steps below 18 – 21 if revocation of a previously implemented CATEX becomes necessary.]*

       18. the project is not initiated within the time period specified in the facility plan, or a new or modified application is submitted;

       19. the proposed action no longer meets the requirements for a categorical exclusion because of changes in the proposed action;

       20. new evidence demonstrates that serious local or environmental issues exist; or

       21. state, local, tribal, or federal laws may be violated.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**STATE PREPARER**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**STATE REVIEWER**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**COMPLETION DATE**



NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION  
CITY OF WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, MONTANA  
PHASE 3 WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT

April 2, 2021

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality has reviewed the above named project. The project consists of installing approximately 1,200 feet of 12-inch and 8-inch PVC water main. The project includes the installation of two new fire hydrants and all associated service connections, curb stops, valves and appurtenances. The project also includes the resurfacing or reclamation of all disturbed areas. The proposed water main replacement work will occur primarily along 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE between Main Street and Lincoln Street and along Lincoln Street between 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE.

Pursuant to ARM 17.40.318, the Department has concluded that the proposed project meets the Categorical Exclusion criteria of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). The Categorical Exclusion may be revoked if the project is not initiated within the time period specified in the planning documents, a new or modified application is submitted, new evidence demonstrates serious local or environmental issues exist, or state, local, tribal, or federal laws are violated.

The documentation for the Categorical Exclusion is available for public review at the following locations:

Department of Environmental Quality  
State Revolving Fund Loan Program  
1520 East Sixth Avenue  
Helena, MT 59620

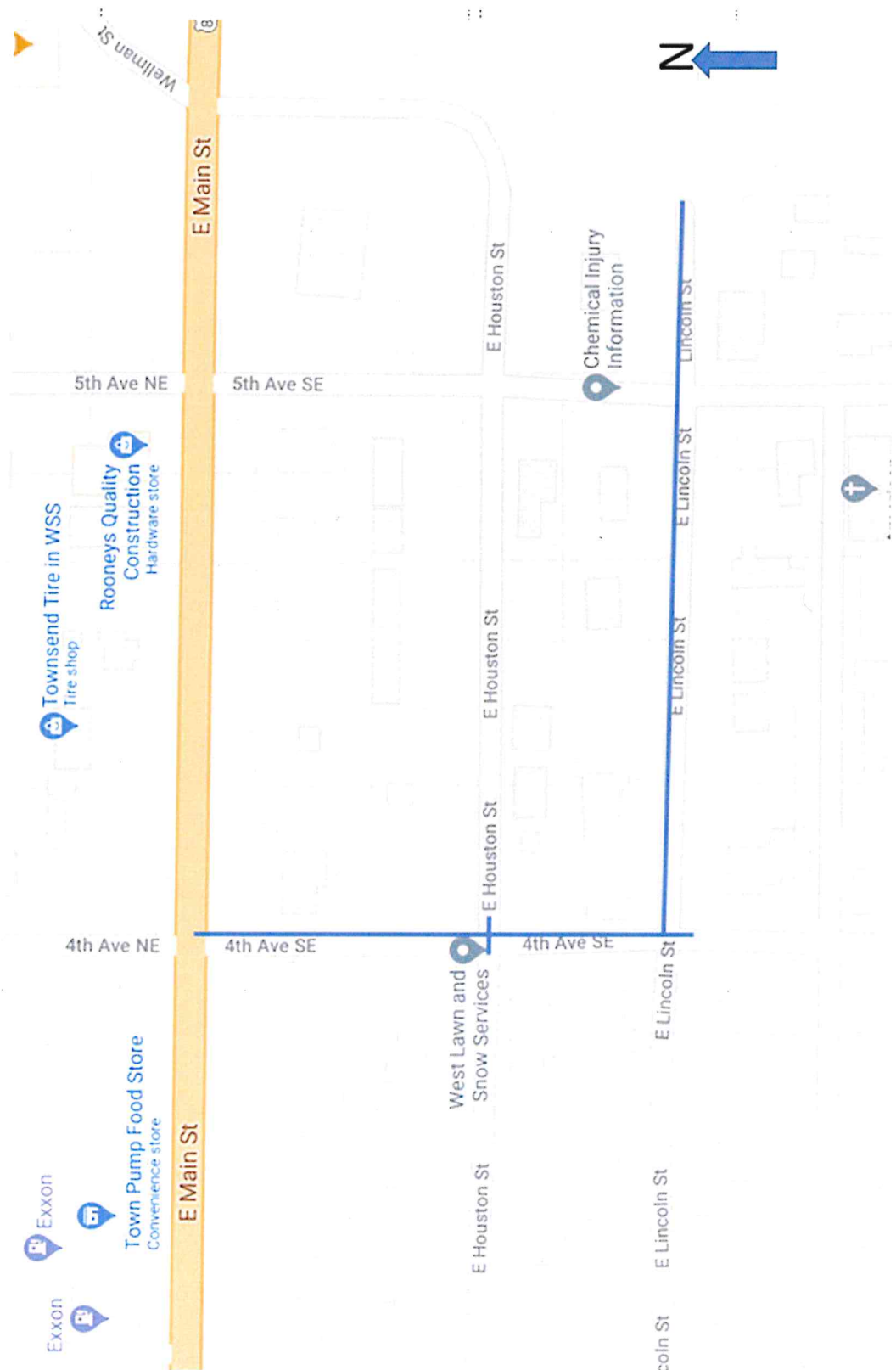
City of White Sulphur Springs  
105 West Hampton  
White Sulphur Springs, MT 59036

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Smith", is written over a horizontal line.

Mark A. Smith, P.E.  
SRF Engineering Manager  
Engineering Bureau  
Water Quality Division  
Dept. of Environmental Quality

Figure 1 – White Sulphur Springs Phase 3 Water Main Replacement Project Location







April 2, 2021

Richard Nelson, Mayor  
City of White Sulphur Springs, Montana  
P.O. Box 442  
White Sulphur Springs, MT 59645

RE: Categorical Exclusion – City of White Sulphur Springs, Montana  
Phase 3 Water Main Replacement Project

Dear Mayor Nelson:

An environmental review of the above referenced project has been completed by the Drinking Water SRF Program. Based on this review, it has been determined that the project is eligible for a categorical exclusion from further environmental review. A copy of the Notice of Publication of Categorical Exclusion for this project is enclosed. Please print the notice in at least one publication of your local newspaper, under legal advertising, and return a copy of the proof of advertisement to this office. Please have the notice, Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) and the project contract documents available for public review at your office. We have distributed the notice to the enclosed list of agencies. Please call if you have any questions regarding this process or the project in general.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Ashton".

Robert Ashton  
Drinking Water SRF Loan Program  
Engineering Bureau  
[rashton@mt.gov](mailto:rashton@mt.gov)  
406.444.5316

Encl

cc: Terry Threlkeld, P.E., Innovative Engineering, Gallatin Gateway, MT  
Anna Miller, DNRC (w/o notice)





## *Memorandum*

**To:** Rob Ashton, Engineering Review Bureau  
**From:** Carolyn DeMartino, Water Quality Division  
**Date:** July 29, 2020  
**Re:** White Sulphur Springs Phase III Water Transmission Main Replacement Potential Contaminant Source Review

Based on the review conducted by Source Water Protection staff and the Remediation and Waste Management Division (RWMD) staff, no potential contaminant sources (PCS) were identified within the White Sulphur Springs Phase III Water Transmission Main Replacement Project Area.

The PCS review involved contacting staff to determine if any of the following PCSs: State Superfund Sites, Federal Superfund Sites, Brownfields Sites, underground fuel storage tanks (USTs), active and abandoned mine sites, Montana Agricultural Chemical Groundwater Protection Act Sites, Water Quality Act Sites, landfills, transportation routes (roads/ railroads), petroleum pipelines, hazardous waste handlers, septic density, and wastewater discharge areas, are located within the project area.

Unregulated activities or unreported contaminant releases may have been inadvertently overlooked. **The geographic location accuracy (street address, latitude & longitude) of all identified tanks (UST & LUST), if any, should also be verified by the user.** The use of multiple sources of information, however, should ensure that the majority of potential contaminant sources were addressed by this review.

It appears unlikely that the contractor(s) for the White Sulphur Springs Phase III Water Transmission Main Replacement Project will encounter contaminated soil. If contaminated soil and/ or water is encountered, the contractor should immediately stop excavation; and report the event to an actual person using the Montana Department of Environmental Quality Hot Line at: 1-800-457-0568; or after hours and holidays 1-406-324-4777.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to review this project. Please contact me if you have any questions.